

**(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau**



**(43) International Publication Date**  
**22 July 2004 (22.07.2004)**

**PCT**

**(10) International Publication Number**  
**WO 2004/061545 A2**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: G06F

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**(21) International Application Number:**  
PCT/IB2004/000013

**(22) International Filing Date:** 5 January 2004 (05.01.2004)

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(25) Filing Language: English

(26) **Publication Language:** English

**(30) Priority Data:**  
60/438,214      6 January 2003 (06.01.2003)      US

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(81) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available):** AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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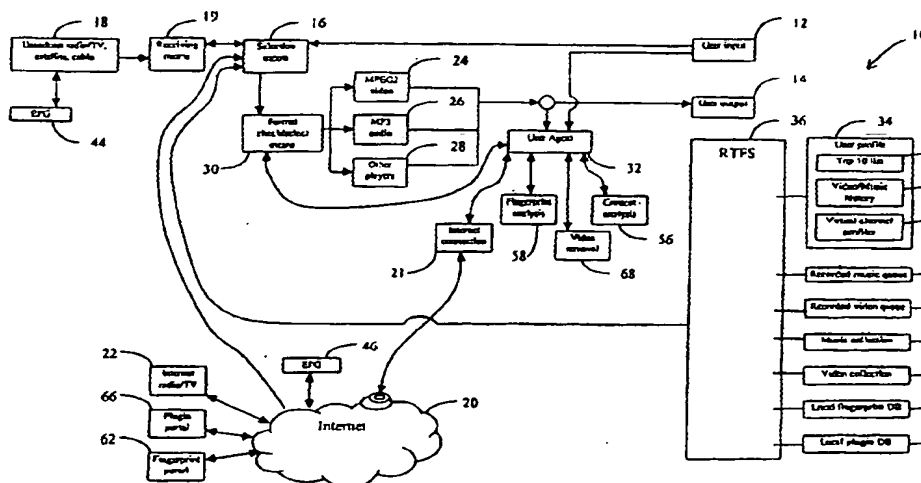
**(84) Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK,

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(Continued on next page)

(54) Title: REAL-TIME RECORDING AGENT FOR STREAMING DATA FROM AN INTERNET



(57) **Abstract:** A personal recorder/playback system (10) includes a recording agent (32) configured to transparently receive multiple audio/visual streams from analog and/or digital sources. The streams are temporarily stored in queues (52,54) for subsequent analysis. The streams, after analysis, are either discarded, stored permanently in an audio/visual collection (48,50), or used to improve the quality of previously stored streams in the collection. The recording agent (32) provides features such as virtual channels (42) and a "top-ten" list (38) of most popular stored audio/visual streams.